AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

23. (Currently Amended) A method for resolving a shared secret on a data network telephony system, the data network telephony system comprising a plurality of Portable Information Devices (PIDs) coupled to data network telephones within the data network telephony system, the method comprising in combination:

transmitting a suggested shared secret to one or more PIDSs from a first PID;

receiving the suggested shared secret on the one or more PIDs;

~~The method of Claim 19 further comprising~~ rejecting the suggested shared secret by at least one of the one or more PIDs and suggesting an alternative shared secret by the first PID prior to accepting the suggested shared secret at each of the one or more PIDs; and

confirming the suggested shared secret by sending at least one acknowledgement message from the one or more PIDs to the first PID.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for resolving a shared secret on a data network telephony system, the data network telephony system comprising a plurality of Portable Information Devices (PIDs) coupled to data network telephones within the data network telephony system, the method comprising in combination:

transmitting a suggested shared secret to one or more PIDSs from a first PID;

receiving the suggested shared secret on the one or more PIDs;

~~The method of Claim 19 further comprising~~ transmitting a plurality of suggested shared secrets to at least one of the one or more PIDs by the first PID prior to confirming the suggested shared secret at the one or more PIDs; and

confirming the suggested shared secret by sending at least one acknowledgement message from the one or more PIDs to the first PID.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25 wherein at least one of the one or more PIDs selects one of the plurality of suggested shared secrets based on criteria selected from the group consisting of a suggested shared secret length, a suggested shared secret alphanumeric character redundancy, a suggested shared secret averaging, a timestamp of transmission of suggested shared secrets, and a pre-selection of suggested shared secrets.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26 further comprising agreeing upon a selected suggested shared secret by at least one of the one or more PIDs and storing the agreed upon selected suggested shared secret.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27 wherein the at least one of the one or more PIDs stores the agreed upon selected suggested shared secret in a user attribute database within the at least one or more PIDs.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27 wherein the at least one of the one or more PIDs store the agreed upon selected suggested shared secret in a private

encryption/authentication field in an address book application located within the at least one of the one or more PIDs.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for resolving a shared secret on a data network telephony system, the data network telephony system comprising a plurality of Portable Information Devices (PIDs) coupled to data network telephones within the data network telephony system, the method comprising ~~The method of Claim 19 wherein the method comprises~~ an electronic business card exchange.

31. (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated by a random-number generator within the first PID.

32. (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated by a pseudo-random-number generator the first PID.

33. (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein the suggested shared secret is selected from the group consisting of encryption/authentication data, and encryption/decryption data.

34. (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein the suggested shared secret is accepted by at least one of the one or more PIDs by meeting a predetermined length requirement.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

35. (New) The method of Claim 25 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated by a random-number generator within the first PID.

36. (New) The method of Claim 25 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated by a pseudo-random-number generator the first PID.

37. (New) The method of Claim 25 wherein the suggested shared secret is selected from the group consisting of encryption/authentication data, and encryption/decryption data.

38. (New) The method of Claim 25 wherein the suggested shared secret is accepted by at least one of the one or more PIDs by meeting a predetermined length requirement.

39. (New) The method of Claim 30 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated by a random-number generator within the first PID.

40. (New) The method of Claim 30 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated by a pseudo-random-number generator the first PID.

41. (New) The method of Claim 30 wherein the suggested shared secret is selected from the group consisting of encryption/authentication data, and encryption/decryption data.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

42. (New) The method of Claim 30 wherein the suggested shared secret is accepted by at least one of the one or more PIDs by meeting a predetermined length requirement.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001